

24. (Amended) A process for preparation of a contraceptive,
as claimed in claim 19, wherein said electrically conducting
A3 material and said magnetic material are added either together or
one after the other.

25. (New) A process for preparation of a contraceptive, as
A3 claimed in claim 23, wherein said electrically conducting material
and said magnetic material are added either together or one after
the other.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the revisions sought by this Preliminary
Amendment, the PCT International Application will enter the
national stage having twenty five (25) claims. Claims 1 and 19
are the independent claims. Claim 1 is directed to an injectable
reversible contraceptive. Claim 19 is directed to a process for
preparation of such a contraceptive.

The PCT International Application was originally filed with
twenty nine claims. On August 10, 2000, the International Search
Report (ISR) issued. Both Category "A" prior art (i.e., documents
indicative of the general state of the art that are not considered
to be of particular relevance) and Category "X" prior art (i.e.,

documents considered to be of particular relevance) were found during the search.

On August 28, 2000, the Applicant amended the application under Article 19 by submitting replacement sheets 21 and 22 on which (i) original claims 15 and 16 were merged into an amended claim 16; (ii) original claims 18 and 20 were merged into an amended claim 17; (iii) original claim 17 was renumbered as claim 15; (iv) original claim 19 was renumbered as claim 18; and (v) original claims 21 and 22 were replaced by amended claims 19 and 20, respectively. Original claims 1-14 and 23-29 were unchanged.

(See attachment)

In response to a timely-filed *Demand*, the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) then issued a *Written Opinion* on the basis of original pages 1-19, claims 1-8 as originally filed, and claims 9-20 and 23-29 as amended under Article 19. The IPEA alleged lack of novelty for claims 1-19 and lack of inventive step for claims 23-28, with claims 20 and 29 not examined due to omnibus characteristics.

On February 26, 2001, the Applicant amended the application under Article 34 by submitting replacement sheets 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17 for the description; replacement sheets 20-22 for the claims; and replacement sheet 23 for the abstract. The following

amendments were made under Article 34: (i) original claim 3 was deleted as its limitations were merged into claim 1; (ii) claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 14, 20 and 29 were revised; and (iii) all other claims (i.e., claims 2, 5, 8-13, 15-19 and 23-28) were unchanged. Twenty six (26) claims remained after the Article 34 amendments.

On June 18, 2001, the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) then issued the *International Preliminary Examination Report* (IPER) on the basis of original pages 1-7, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 18-19; replacement sheets 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17 as submitted under Article 34; and claims 1, 2, 4-20 and 23-29 as variously amended under Article 34. The IPEA found novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability in claims 1-2, 4-19 and 23-28, with claims 20 and 29 not examined due to omnibus characteristics. Pursuant to Article 6, the claims were renumbered. (See IPER, Section VII, item 3) The omnibus claims were dropped, which is appropriate, as they are not allowed in the U.S.

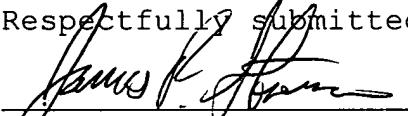
This Preliminary Amendment revises the claims. In particular, claims 15, 18-19 and 24 have been amended to improve clarity in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, or to comport with other U.S. drafting practices.

Please, therefore, examine this application for patent on the basis of original pages 1-7, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 18-19; replacement

sheets 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 23 as submitted under Article 34
on February 26, 2001; and claims 1-25 as presented herein. Please
note that the Abstract appears on replacement sheet 23 above.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Preliminary
Amendment, he/she is invited to call the undersigned attorney at
the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX I

MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIMS

(Provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii))

15. (Amended) A contraceptive as claimed in claim[s] 1 [or 14], characterised in that the contraceptive is heated by electromagnetic induction with fields from outside the body, which in-turn causes lowering in viscosity of said contraceptive to effect the reversal thereof.

18. (Amended) A contraceptive as claimed in claim[s] 1 [or 17], characterised in that said external means include imaging by ultrasound, X-ray, CAT scan, MRI and scanning electrical impedance plethysmography.

19. (Amended) A process for preparation of a contraceptive [of claim 1,] characterised by dissolving the weighed quantities of styrene maleic anhydride copolymer, styrene maleic acid copolymer, said electrically conducting material and said magnetic material in said solvent medium, particularly in dimethyl sulphoxide followed by keeping the complex solution of said copolymers, said electrically conducting material and said magnetic material in an inert environment, preferably in nitrogen

atmosphere and shaking for about 45-50 hrs by maintaining the temperature at about 35°C.

24. (Amended) A process for preparation of a contraceptive, as claimed in claim[s] 19 [and 23], wherein said electrically conducting material and said magnetic material are added either together or one after the other.

25. (New) A process for preparation of a contraceptive, as claimed in claim 23, wherein said electrically conducting material and said magnetic material are added either together or one after the other.